

In the Claims

B Please cancel claim 30 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please amend claims 1 and 50 as indicated herein.

SUB
C1

1. (Amended) An optical information recording medium comprising:
a barrier layer;
a first protective layer; and
a recording layer generating a reversible phase-change which can be optically detected according to an irradiation of an energy beam; wherein said barrier layer is formed between said first protective layer and said recording layer and in contact with said first protective layer and said recording layer, and includes either one selected from the group consisting of GeN and GeNO and at least one element selected from the group consisting of Al, B, Ba, Bi, C, Ca, Ce, Cr, Dy, Eu, Ga, Hf, In, K, La, Mn, Nb, Ni, Pb, Pd, Si, Sn, Ta, Ti, V, W, Yb, Zn, and Zr.

B2

SUB
C3

50. (Amended) An optical information recording medium comprising a phase-change recording layer having reversibly changeable optical characteristics and a Ge-containing layer comprising either one selected from the group consisting of GeXN and GeXON as a main component,

B3

wherein X is at least one element selected from the group consisting of elements belonging to Groups IIIa, IVa, Va, VIa, VIIa, VIII, Ib and IIb, and carbon.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY